

REMARKS

Claims 1-53 are pending. Claims 1-8, 10-17, 22, 27, and 30 have been amended. The Examiner is thanked for the specificity and the clarity of the Office Action. Applicant has carefully reviewed the Office Action and the references cited therein.

On page 2 of the Office Action, the Examiner objected to the Title of the invention as not being sufficiently descriptive of the invention. Applicant believes the amendment to the Title obviates the Examiner's objection.

Claim 1-8, 10-12, and 13-39 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over *Shibata* (U.S. Patent No. 5,477,546).

Shibata fails to disclose or suggest several of the limitations recited in Applicant's claims, and does not render the presently claimed subject matter obvious in view of the level of knowledge possessed by one having ordinary skill in the art.

Claim 1, as amended, includes the limitation that the audio/visual communication system is capable of selectably transmitting and receiving audio and video signals over either one of an analog or a digital communication channel. *Shibata* teaches a system that is specifically limited to transmitting and receiving communication frames through a digital communication channel (see, e.g., *Shibata*, column 2, lines 29-35; column 5, lines 24-26; column 14, lines 30-32 & 57-56, column 15, lines 8-21; and elsewhere).

Shibata provides no teaching or suggestion that would motivate the skilled artisan to modify the *Shibata* system so as to be capable of communicating over an analog communication channel. Even if *Shibata* provided such a suggestion, Applicant submits that such a modification, without the benefit of Applicant's disclosure, would require undo experimentation.

Amended claim 1 further requires an output interface that communicates a video signal received from a remote source to an output connector of the output interface. A separate host processor, when coupled to the output connector, receives the remote video signal for displaying a corresponding video image on the display.

On pages 3 and 4 of the Office Action, the Examiner correctly states that *Shibata* does not explicitly disclose a separate host processor which, when coupled to the output connector, receives the remote video signal for displaying a corresponding video image on the display. The Examiner then concludes that since the data can be passed from the interface of the communication network in *Shibata*, it is well known in the art that there are computer systems that can take the video output and display the video. In support of this conclusion, the Examiner states that *Shibata* discloses output means, comprising an output connector (RS-232 connector), for communicating the remote video signal between the local receive means and the output connector (column 7, lines 13-22).

A careful reading of *Shibata*, and in particular the portions of the *Shibata* reference relied on by the Examiner, makes clear that the RS-232 connector (e.g., RS-232C connector

105) does not communicate remote video signal information between the *Shibata* system and a separate host processor as is suggested by the Examiner.

Shibata, in Fig. 1 and at column 5, line 67 through column 6, line 12, discloses an RS-232C connector 105 connected to a data multiplexer/demultiplexer 20 which delivers mutiplexed or demultiplexed data to the RS-232C connector 105. Further reference is made to column 7, lines 13-22; column 12, line 60 through column 13, line 17; and column 15, lines 22-67. Moreover, Fig. 18 shows RS-232C connector 2821 connected to a data interface 2815.

On page 3 of the Office Action, the Examiner states that *Shibata* discloses a source receive means (multimedia multiplexing/demultiplexing and interterminal signal control unit 8) for receiving a source audio signal and source video signal. *Shibata*, at column 5, lines 31-38, describes the multimedia multiplexing/demultiplexing and interterminal signal control unit 8 as a device that performs various controls between teleconference systems that communicate through a communication circuit. The control unit 8 disclosed in *Shibata* does not receive a source audio signal and a source video signal as is required in Applicant's amended claim 1.

The Examiner further states on page 3 of the Office Action that *Shibata* discloses local transmission means and local receive means (network interface and communication network control unit 9). *Shibata* teaches that the network interfacing communications network control unit 9 is connected to a digital communications network through the D/R 10 (column 5, lines 24-

26). *Shibata* does not disclose or suggest a local transmission interface or a local receive interface that respectively transmits and receives audio and video signal information over either one of an analog or a digital communication channel as is required in Applicant's claim 1. Moreover, Applicant submits that any such modification of the *Shibata* system that would permit it to communicate over an analog communication channel would require undo experimentation.

For the reasons set forth above, Applicant respectfully asserts that amended claim 1 is not rendered obvious under *Shibata*. Applicant further submits that claims 2-12 are patentable over *Shibata* since these claims depend from patentable independent claim 1, and for reasons set forth below.

On page 5 of the Office Action, it is stated that *Shibata* discloses the local receive means comprising means for automatically determining the format of the remote compressed audio and video signals. Reference is made to column 5, lines 34-38. Applicant submits that the portions of *Shibata* relied on by the Examiner do not disclose this limitation of Applicant's amended claim 4.

Concerning the rejection of claim 5, *Shibata*, at column 13, lines 27-38, teaches that the unit controller 1303 controls any of the constituents of the conference unit 1300 in compliance with an instruction from the conference console 907, an instruction from the control unit 26 of the teleconference system, or control data received from the opposite communicating terminal equipment. *Shibata*, in contrast to the Examiner's conclusion concerning claim 5, does not teach or suggest an

output interface that receives at the output connector a coordination instruction produced by a separate host processor.

With regard to claim 6, the Examiner concedes that *Shibata* does not disclose an output interface comprising an SCSI interface or a PCMCIA interface. The Examiner concludes, however, that it would have been the designer's choice in deciding which output means to select in view of *Shibata's* disclosure of an RS-232 and RS-422 interface. These interfaces disclosed in *Shibata* are not suitable or incapable of communicating video information within the context of the *Shibata* system. The skilled artisan would not be motivated to select an interface capable of communicating video information thereover when referring to the data interfaces taught in *Shibata*.

Claim 7, as amended, is patentable over *Shibata* because *Shibata* does not disclose an input interface capable of receiving source video signal information in one of a plurality of predetermined formats. Reference is made to Applicant's Specification at page 11, line 32 through page 12, line 7 which provides various examples of predetermined video formats not disclosed or suggested in *Shibata*.

With regard to the rejection of claims 11 and 12, Applicant respectfully contends that *Shibata* does not disclose a data file processor that transmits a data file over the communication channel as is required in Applicant's amended claim 11. Amended claim 12 is patentable over *Shibata* because *Shibata* does not teach or suggest a local transmission interface including a converter that converts a standard data file to a coded data file of a predetermined format, nor does *Shibata*

disclose or suggest a local receive interface including a converter that converts a coded data file of a predetermined format to a standard data file.

The Examiner rejected claims 13-18 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over *Shibata*. The Examiner concedes that *Shibata* does not explicitly disclose the software recited in Applicant's amended claim 13. On page 4 of the Office Action, the Examiner further concedes that *Shibata* does not explicitly disclose a separate host processor which, when coupled to the output connector, receives the remote video signal for displaying a corresponding video image on the display. As was discussed hereinabove, the *Shibata* system does not receive a coordination instruction from a separate host processor, nor does the *Shibata* system include an output means for communicating the remote video signal between the local receive means and the output connector.

Applicant respectfully asserts that *Shibata* does not teach or suggest software that cooperates with the separate host processor to coordinate communication of the remote video signal between the local receive means and the output connector, whereby the separate host processor, when coupled to the output connector, receives the remote video signal and cooperates with the software to present on the display a video image associated with a remote video signal.

Notwithstanding the Examiner's assertion that, in view of *Shibata*, it is obvious that the hardware is controlled by software in order to implement the functionality as described in *Shibata*, the Examiner has failed to identify in *Shibata* hardware or software that cooperatively operate to coordinate

communication of the remote video signal between the local receive means and the output connector.

By way of example, and with particular reference to rejected claim 17, *Shibata* neither teaches nor suggests software that cooperates with a separate host processor to adjust the transmission bandwidth of the communication channel allocated for transmitting a data file, a source audio signal, and a source video signal. Applicant asserts that claims 13-18 are patentable over *Shibata* because *Shibata* wholly fails to teach or suggest many of the limitations required in Applicant's amended claims 13-18. Further, claims 13-18 are patentable over *Shibata* because these claims depend from patentable claim 13.

Applicant takes exception to the Examiner's overreaching statement that it is obvious that hardware is controlled by software in order to implement the functionality described by *Shibata*. As discussed above, *Shibata* does not disclose or suggest the functionality recited in amended claims 13-18. Further, in contrast to the Examiner's assertion, *Shibata* fails to disclose several hardware aspects of what is presently claimed. The Examiner's conclusion that it is obvious that the hardware is controlled by software in order to implement the functionality as described in *Shibata* is untenable because *Shibata* fails to teach or suggest both the structural and functional limitations recited in amended claims 13-18.

Claims 19-26 and 36 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable for reasons set forth in the Office Action with regard to the rejection of claims 1-8 and 10-18. Applicant

asserts that these claims are patentable over *Shibata* for reasons set forth hereinabove.

Concerning, in particular, the rejection of claim 23, *Shibata* specifically discloses a system that communicates exclusively over a digital communication channel, as previously discussed. Claim 23 includes the limitation of selectably transmitting source audio and video signals over one of an analog communication channel or a digital communication channel. With respect to the rejection of claim 26, nothing in *Shibata* teaches or suggests a host processor including means for adjusting the transmission bandwidth of the communication channel allocated for transmitting a data file, a source audio signal, and a source video signal.

Concerning the rejection of claim 27, Applicant reiterates the previously made argument concerning the failure of *Shibata* to disclose or suggest an output means for communicating the source video signal between the output connector and the separate host processor. With regard to rejected claims 28 and 29, which depend from patentable claim 27, nothing in *Shibata* teaches or suggests displaying on a display coupled to a separate host processor video images associated with at least one of the remote and source video signals. *Shibata* does not disclose or suggest a separate host processor comprising means for simultaneously displaying on the display video images associated with the remote and source video signals.

Claim 30, as amended, is patentable over *Shibata* because nothing in *Shibata* discloses or suggests a host processor comprising means for functioning by using an operating system

different from an operating system employed by a second host processor communicating with the host processor. An advantage realized by such a capability involves cross-platform transferring of data, for example, as is discussed on page 30 of Applicant's Specification.

With regard to the rejection of claims 31-35, the Examiner concedes that for each of these claims, *Shibata* does not disclose the means for performing the specified function recited in these claims. The Examiner's overbroad conclusion that the limitations recited in these claims are well known in the art is an insufficient basis for establishing a prima facie case of obviousness. In view of the Examiner's burden to establish such a prima facie showing, Applicant respectfully requests that a teaching reference disclosing these limitations be cited or that an appropriate declaration be submitted.

Concerning the rejection of claim 37, Applicant reiterates the previously made argument concerning the rejection of claim 7. Nothing in *Shibata* suggests a local transmission means comprising means for converting the source video signal in at least one of an NTSC format, a PAL format, and an S-video format to an associated local compressed video signal.

Claims 40-53 were rejected based on the arguments previously set forth by the Examiner. For reasons discussed above, and for those further discussed hereinbelow, Applicant asserts that claims 40-53 are patentable over *Shibata*.

Concerning the rejection of claims 44-46, *Shibata* fails to teach or suggest the window sharing means of these claims or a means for simultaneously modifying an operation of a software

application or video image displayed in at least one of a plurality of shared video windows. With regard to claim 53, *Shibata* fails to teach or suggest dissimilar operating systems functioning and communicating on a local and remote host processor.

Concerning the rejection of claim 9, *Koz* teaches an adapter for exchanging digital data between two mutually incompatible digital telecommunication protocols. *Koz* does not teach selectably switching between an analog communication channel and a digital communication channel, as is suggested by the Examiner (see *Koz*, Abstract and column 2, lines 50-66, for example). Claim 9 is patentable over the combination of *Shibata* and *Koz*.

The prior art made of record and not relied on by the Examiner has been reviewed, and is not believed to negate the patentability of the presently claimed subject matter.

In summary, it is believed that the amendment to the claims, taken in view of the above remarks, clearly places the application in condition for allowance. Concurrence by the Examiner and early passage of the application to issue are respectfully requested.

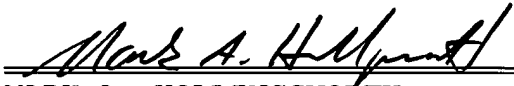
If a telephone conference would be helpful in resolving any issues concerning this communication, please contact the below-signing attorney at (612) 336-4703.

Respectfully submitted,

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